

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, US, DA
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT AMERICAN CLUB: ALL IS WELL IN
US-DANISH RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN HIS FIRST COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON DANISH
FOREIGN POLICY IN SOME TIME, PRIME MINISTER ANKER
JORGENSEN SAID DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE US ENDED WITH
VIETNAM; EXPRESSED POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS OF PRESIDENTS
CARTER AND FORD AND SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIFICS OF THE
FORMER'S FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS; DESCRIBED ATLANTIC
COOPERATION AS A "BACKBONE" FOR ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE TODAY'S
PROBLEMS; AND CALLED FOR A SOLUTION TO ECONOMIC DIFFI-
CULTIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD IN ORDER TO MEET THE
GREAT EXTERNAL PROBLEMS FACING THE WEST AS WELL AS,
IMPLICITLY, TO AVOID AN INTERNAL LOSS OF FAITH BY
WESTERN SOCIETIES IN THEMSELVES. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ACCEPTED AN INVITA-
TION TO SPEAK AT THE MAY 23 LUNCHEON MEETING OF
COPENHAGEN'S AMERICAN CLUB (COMPRISED LARGELY OF
DANISH AND US BUSINESSMEN). SPEAKING AND RESPONDING
TO QUESTIONS IN VERY GOOD ENGLISH, PRIME MINISTER
JORGENSEN ADDRESSED HIMSELF PRIMARILY TO US-DANISH
RELATIONS AND DENMARK'S WORLD VIEW. JORGENSEN'S

REMARKS WERE ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE STATEMENTS ON THESE SUBJECTS THAT HE HAS MADE OVER THE LAST YEAR. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. "I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE US... MODERN AMERICA HAS IN MANY WAYS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY. I AM NOT SAYING THAT THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST COURSE. BUT AMERICAN INFLUENCE IS ENORMOUS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICA MUST INTEREST US ALL.

"WE SEE COOPERATION ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AS A BACKBONE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ENDEAVORS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF THE MODERN WORLD.

"WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS SEEN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE SAME WAY. A LARGE PART OF THE DANISH PEOPLE - I WAS AMONG THEM - WERE DEEPLY CRITICAL OF AMERICAN POLICY IN VIETNAM. AND WE SAID SO.

"BUT ALL THAT IS OVER....

"WHILE DANISH PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET TWO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.

"I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR MR GERALD FORD (WHO) ...HELPED THE UNITED STATES THROUGH...AND OUT OF...A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD....

"...I A(ALSO) HAD THE HONOUR TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN LONDON. IT WAS A BRIEF BUT A VERY ENCOURAGING MEETING. I MUST SAY THAT HE WAS EXTRAORDINARILY OPEN AND VERY MUCH A GOOD LISTENER.

"...THE NATO SUMMIT WAS A SUCCESS. ONE REACTION UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS A FEELING OF OPTIMISM BASED ON CLASSICAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS.

"IN THIS CONNECTION I WILL JUST MENTION THE NEW INITIATIVES ON ARMS-LIMITATION AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS...ENERGY PROBLEMS...AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

"THERE ARE MAYBE NOT SO GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BASIC ATTITUDES AND PHILOSOPHY OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND A GREAT PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ATTITUDES AND PHILOSOPHY OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AS WE KNOW THEM IN THE NORID COUNTRIES. WE SHARE FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY AS WELL AS THE IDEA OF RATIONAL GOVERNMENT...WE BELIEVE IN RESPONSIBILITY, MODERATION AND PROGRESS.

"..WE ARE GLAD TO SEE: THE EMPHASIS ON STRENGTH- ENED COOPERATION WITH THE NATO ALLIES; THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY; THE NEW APPROACH TO AFRICA... WE TRUST THAT THE US WILL TAKE A

LEADING ROLE AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO
INITIATE SOLUTIONS TO THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND
TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD.

"...IT IS NECESSARY TO DARE TO FACE THE REAL ISSUES
AND TO TALK HONESTLY ABOUT THEM. OTHERWISE DETENTE
WILL NOT GET ITS TRUE MEANING. AND DETENTE MUST
MEAN MUCH MORE THAN THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE ARMED
CONFLICTS.

"BUT THE HARD REALITIES OF POLITICAL DIVISIONS
MEAN THAT IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME FOR EAST AND
WEST TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AND
MUTUAL TRUST.

"...IF THE WESTERN WORLD SHALL MEET THE
GREAT PROBLEMS FACING US, IT IS NECESSARY TO OVER-
COME THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WE ARE FACING.

"...A HEALTHY AND STABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
CANNOT BE OVERSTRESSED. IN THE PAST, MANY SOCIETIES
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HAVE FALLEN AS THE RESULT OF THEIR OWN INTERNAL STRIFE
AND TENSIONS. THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN IS THAT
PEOPLE LOSE FAITH IN THEIR SOCIETY.

"WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO BE OPEN TO ALL POLITICAL
AND SOCIAL FORCES WHICH RESPECT THE PRINCIPLES OF
PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY...

"THE WEST MUST BE SEEN TO STAND UP FOR ITS OWN
VALUES IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD... ESPECIALLY IN
THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AFRICA.

"I BELIEVE DANISH SOCIETY IS BASICALLY HEALTHY

...

"THE DANISH POLITICAL SCENE MAY APPEAR BEWILDER-
ING AND EVEN TURBULANT...BUT IT LOOKS WORSE THAN IT
REALLY IS."

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED HIS
GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ITS OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER-
SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE EC,
GATT, AND THE NORDIC COUNCIL. THESE INSTITUTIONS
ARE NOT TROUBLE-FREE BUT JORGENSEN SAID THERE IS
"NO ALTERNATIVE" FOR DENMARK.

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